

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201496

FOLLOWING REPEAT RANGOON 2566 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
BANGKOK CHIANG MAI AUG 24

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: TACHILEK NARCOTICS SEIZURE -- BANGKOK PRESS LEAK

REF: (A) RANGOON 2553, (B) BANGKOK 18693

1. DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR COL. MYO AUNG AND OTHER SENIOR GUB OFFICIALS ATTENDING ADCM'S DINNER AUGUST 23 WERE CLEARLY UPSET AND DISMAYED BY THE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE TO THE BANGKOK PRESS OF THE TACHILEK NARCOTICS SEIZURE. THEY HAD EARLIER MET WITH MILITARY ADVISER TO THE PRISIDENT COL. TIN OO, WHO, THEY SAID, INSTRUCTED THEM TO ATTEND THE DINNER AND NOT TO SHOW ANGER ABOUT THE LEAK SINCE THE BURMESE RECOGNIZED IT DID NOT ORIGINATE IN THIS MISSION. COL. MYO AUNG SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE STORY, INCLUDING THE USE OF THE TERM "AGENTS" AND A WHOLESALE U.S. PRICE FIGURE WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN PROVIDED TO THEM BY DEA (BANGKOK 18462, NOTAL), THEY HAD DECIDED THAT THE LEAK HAD ORIGINATED FROM THE
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AMERICAN MISSION IN BANGKOK, AND HAD "DRAWN OUR OWN CONCLUSIONS". HE SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE IT MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT TO GIVE US ADVANCE INFORMATION CONCERNING GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IF WE INTENDED TO RELAY IT TO BANGKOK.

2. COMMENT: IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN SUB-

STANTIAL ADVANCES IN THE U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BURMESE, AND IT IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIONS, WITH OUR HELP, ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE A VERY SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS. A YEAR OR SO AGO, THE DAMAGE WHICH THIS LEAK HAS DONE TO OUR NARCOTICS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BURMESE, AND HENCE TO THEIR ABILITY TO ATTACK THE TRAFFICKERS, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN IRREPARABLE. NOW, THANKS TO THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY DEVELOPED OVER THIS, WE BELIEVE THE DAMAGE CAN EVENTUALLY BE OVERCOME. NEVERTHELESS, USG CREDIBILITY HAS BEEN DAMAGED, AND IN THE FUTURE WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THE KIND OF ADVANCE INFORMATION ON BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES WE HAVE ENJOYED IN THE IMMEDIATE PAST. IN BURMESE EYES, OUR ABILITY TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL HAS NOW COME INTO QUESTION, AND THIS WILL INEVITABLY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE INCREASED OPENNESS THE BURMESE WERE DEVELOPING WITH US ON ANTI-NARCOTICS MATTERS. IN AN ATTEMPT TO LIMIT DAMAGE AND TO KEEP OPEN OUR HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL WITH THE BURMESE, CHARGE TOLD MAJOR TIN MAUNG FOR PASSING TO COL. MYO AUNG AND COL. TIN OO THAT IN THE FUTURE WE WOULD MEET OUR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO OUR GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD PROVIDE LIMITED SPECIFICS UNTIL THEY HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE GUB AND ANNOUNCED BY THEM. TIN MAUNG APPRECIATED AND APPLAUDED THAT ASSURANCE.

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BARTLEY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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